

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**District of New Mexico**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
V.**Israel Meza-Meza****Judgment in a Criminal Case**

(For Offenses Committed On or After November 1, 1987)

Case Number: 1:09CR03591-001JBUSM Number: **48808-051**Defense Attorney: **Thomas J. Clear, III, Retained**

THE DEFENDANT:

- ☒ pleaded guilty to count(s) **Information**
- ☐ pleaded nolo contendere to count(s) which was accepted by the court.
- ☐ after a plea of not guilty was found guilty on count(s)

The defendant is adjudicated guilty of these offenses:

<i>Title and Section Nature of Offense</i>	<i>Offense Ended</i>	<i>Count Number(s)</i>
21 U.S.C. Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine 841(b)(1)(B)	10/22/2009	

The defendant is sentenced as provided in pages 2 through 6 of this judgment. The sentence is imposed pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984.

- ☐ The defendant has been found not guilty on count .
- ☐ Count dismissed on the motion of the United States.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the defendant must notify the United States attorney for this district within 30 days of any change of name, residence, or mailing address until all fines, restitution, costs, and special assessments imposed by this judgment are fully paid. If ordered to pay restitution, the defendant must notify the court and United States attorney of material changes in economic circumstances.

April 15, 2011

Date of Imposition of Judgment

/s/ James O. Browning

Signature of Judge

Honorable James O. Browning
United States District Judge

Name and Title of Judge

August 4, 2011

Date Signed

Defendant: **Israel Meza-Meza**
Case Number: **1:09CR03591-001JB**

IMPRISONMENT

The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of **8 years (96 months)** .

The Court recommends that Immigration and Customs Enforcement begin removal proceedings during service of sentence. Said term shall run concurrent to the sentence imposed in 1:10CR0166-001 JB.

The United States Probation Office ("USPO") disclosed a Presentence Investigation Report ("PSR") for Defendant Israel Meza on March 7, 2011. In the PSR, the USPO calculated Meza's offense level to be 35 and his criminal history category to be II, establishing a guideline imprisonment range of 188 to 235 months. There being no objections to the sentencing guideline calculations in the PSR, the Court adopts them as its own.

Under rule 11(c)(1)(C) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Court accepts the plea agreement, which includes a specific sentence of 96 months, because the Court is satisfied that the sentence in the plea agreement varies for justifiable reasons. The Court has considered carefully the parties' arguments and the case's circumstances. The United States' case relies heavily upon the testimony of a witness that resulted from questionable interrogation techniques, which may compromise the United States' case if Meza goes to trial. Moreover, the witness refuses to testify against Meza, further jeopardizing the United States' case. The Court has held that weaknesses in the United States' case is a legitimate ground for a variance, because a sentence of incarceration is more just than no sentence at all. See *United States v. Summers*, 506 F. Supp. 2d 686, 698-99 (D.N.M. 2007)(Browning, J.)("The Court can, under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), take into account the problems with the United States' case."); *United States v. Jiang*, 376 F. Supp. 2d 1153, 1157-58 (D.N.M. 2005)(Browning, J.)(granting a variance after examining the potential benefits to the United States and the public of going to trial); *United States v. Stone*, 374 F. Supp. 2d 983, 990 (D.N.M. 2005)(Browning, J.)(granting a variance after considering the United States' prospects at trial). Additionally, Meza has a close-knit and engaged family that is committed to establishing a life with Meza in Mexico when he is released.

The Court notes that Meza possessed with intent to distribute 365.8 grams of methamphetamine. The Court has considered the guideline range for the applicable category of offense committed by the applicable category of defendant. The Court believes that the punishment that the guidelines set forth is not appropriate for the circumstances of Meza's case. The Court has considered the guidelines, but, in arriving at its sentence, has taken into account not only the guidelines but other sentencing goals. The Court agrees that a sentence of 96 months accurately reflects the circumstances of Meza's offense. The Court believes a sentence of 96 months adequately reflects the seriousness of the offense, promotes respect for the law, provides just punishment, affords adequate deterrence, protects the public, and otherwise fully reflects each of the factors embodied in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). While the Court's task, as a district court, is not to arrive at a reasonable sentence -- it is to come up with one that reflects the factors in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), see *United States v. Conlan*, 500 F.3d 1167, 1169 (10th Cir. 2007)("[A] district court's job is not to impose a reasonable sentence. Rather, a district court's mandate is to impose a sentence sufficient, but not greater than necessary, to comply with the purposes of section 3553(a)(2).")(citation omitted) -- the Court believes this sentence is reasonable and more so than one within the sentencing guideline range. Finally, the Court believes Meza's criminal history is adequately reflected in this sentence, and that this sentence is sufficient without being greater than necessary to comply with the purposes of punishment Congress set forth in the Sentencing Reform Act.

☒ The court makes the following recommendations to the Bureau of Prisons:

Phoenix Federal Correctional Institution, Phoenix, Arizona, if eligible

The Court also recommends that the Defendant be allowed to participate in any programs for which he may be eligible for while in custody.

- ☒ The defendant is remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal.
- ☐ The defendant shall surrender to the United States Marshal for this district:
 - ☐ at on
 - ☐ as notified by the United States Marshal.
- ☐ The defendant shall surrender for service of sentence at the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons:

- ☐ before 2 p.m. on
- ☐ as notified by the United States Marshal
- ☐ as notified by the Probation or Pretrial Services Office.

RETURN

I have executed this judgment as follows:

Defendant delivered on _____ to
_____ at _____ with a Certified copy of this judgment.

UNITED STATES MARSHAL

By

DEPUTY UNITED STATES MARSHAL

Defendant: **Israel Meza-Meza**
Case Number: **1:09CR03591-001JB**

SUPERVISED RELEASE

Upon release from imprisonment, the defendant shall be on supervised release for a term of **4 years unsupervised**.

The defendant must report to the probation office in the district to which the defendant is released within 72 hours of release from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons.

The defendant shall not commit another federal, state, or local crime.

The defendant shall not unlawfully possess a controlled substance.

The defendant shall refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance.

The defendant shall submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter, as determined by the court.

- ☐ The above drug testing condition is suspended, based on the court's determination that the defendant poses a low risk of future substance abuse. (Check, if applicable.)
- ☒ The defendant shall not possess a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or any other dangerous weapon. (Check, if applicable).
- ☒ The defendant shall cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer. (Check, if applicable).
- ☐ The defendant shall register with the state, local, tribal and/or other appropriate sex offender registration agency in the state where the defendant resides, works, or is a student, as directed by the probation officer. (Check, if applicable.)
- ☐ The defendant shall participate in an approved program for domestic violence. (Check, if applicable)

If this judgment imposes a fine or restitution, it is a condition of supervised release that the defendant pay in accordance with the Criminal Monetary Penalties sheet of this judgment.

The defendant must comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this court as well as with any additional conditions on the attached page.

STANDARD CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

- 1) the defendant shall not leave the judicial district without the permission of the court or probation officer;
- 2) the defendant shall report to the probation officer and shall submit a truthful and complete written report within the first five days of each month;
- 3) the defendant shall answer truthfully all inquiries by the probation officer and follow the instructions of the probation officer;
- 4) the defendant shall support his or her dependents and meet other family responsibilities;
- 5) the defendant shall work regularly at a lawful occupation, unless excused by the probation officer for schooling, training, or other acceptable reasons;
- 6) the defendant shall notify the probation officer at least ten days prior to any change in residence or employment;
- 7) the defendant shall refrain from excessive use of alcohol and shall not purchase, possess, use, distribute, or administer any controlled substance or any paraphernalia related to any controlled substances, except as prescribed by a physician;
- 8) the defendant shall not frequent places where controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed, or administered;
- 9) the defendant shall not associate with any persons engaged in criminal activity, and shall not associate with any person convicted of a felony unless granted permission to do so by the probation officer;
- 10) the defendant shall permit a probation officer to visit him or her at any time at home or elsewhere and shall permit confiscation of any contraband observed in plain view of the probation officer;
- 11) the defendant shall notify the probation officer within seventy-two hours of being arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer;
- 12) the defendant shall not enter into any agreement to act as an informer or a special agent of a law enforcement agency without the permission of the court; and
- 13) as directed by the probation officer, the defendant shall notify third parties of risks that may be occasioned by the defendant's criminal record or personal history or characteristics and shall permit the probation officer to make such notifications and to confirm the defendant's compliance with such notification requirement;

Defendant: **Israel Meza-Meza**

Case Number: **1:09CR03591-001JB**

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

The defendant must not reenter the United States without legal authorization.

Defendant: **Israel Meza-Meza**Case Number: **1:09CR03591-001JB****CRIMINAL MONETARY PENALTIES**

The defendant must pay the following total criminal monetary penalties in accordance with the schedule of payments.

☐ The Court hereby remits the defendant's Special Penalty Assessment; the fee is waived and no payment is required.

Totals:	Assessment	Fine	Restitution
	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Payments shall be applied in the following order (1) assessment; (2) restitution; (3) fine principal; (4) cost of prosecution; (5) interest; (6) penalties.

Payment of the total fine and other criminal monetary penalties shall be due as follows:

The defendant will receive credit for all payments previously made toward any criminal monetary penalties imposed.

A ☒ In full immediately; or

B ☐ \$ immediately, balance due (see special instructions regarding payment of criminal monetary penalties).

Special instructions regarding the payment of criminal monetary penalties: Criminal monetary penalties are to be made payable by cashier's check, bank or postal money order to the U.S. District Court Clerk, 333 Lomas Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102 unless otherwise noted by the court. Payments must include defendant's name, current address, case number and type of payment.

Unless the court has expressly ordered otherwise in the special instructions above, if this judgment imposes a period of imprisonment, payment of criminal monetary penalties shall be due during the period of imprisonment. All criminal monetary penalty payments, except those payments made through the Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program, are to be made as directed by the court, the probation officer, or the United States attorney.